(c) With the dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, have become market determined.

Adulteration of fuel in capital

3741. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindu dated the 14th March, 2002 captioned "Adulteration of fuel rampant in the capital";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The facts are not correct in view of the following:—

(i) Out of 618 samples received from enforcing agencies and tested and reported by Society for Petroleum Laboratory (SFPL) upto 19.12.2001 the failure rate was 2.4%.

(ii) Anti Adultration Cell reported the failure rate of smaples in whole of north as around 1.5%.

(iii) Out of a total of 19754 samples tested by oil companies in the last one year, the failure rate was 1.2%.

In view of the above reporting by three agencies including one independent agency i.e. Anti Adulteration Cell, the results of Centre of Science and Environment (CSE) cannot be trusted. This can particularly be attributed to adoption of wrong methodology, handling and improper sampling and their inadequate expertise.